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Roberto Lange

From: Roberto Lange
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Kilgallon, John (USMS)
Cc: Mosteller, Daniel (USMS); stephen.houghtaling_usdoj.gov
Subject: RE: Vaccination Expectations in District of South Dakota

John, I appreciate the timeliness of your response, which will allow me to discuss this matter with my fellow district judges during a scheduled call tomorrow. You are correct that this is not the response that we had hoped to hear.

I was confused by one aspect of your response and would appreciate clarification. Your email below and your letter make clear, to quote your letter, that "the USMS is not requiring that our employees divulge their vaccination status to their management." Yet the letter cites some fairly precise percentages for Deputy USMs being fully vaccinated—approximately 52% nationally and approximately 44% in the District of South Dakota. This leads me to ask two questions: 1) Is the USMS somehow collecting information on vaccination status, short of requiring DUSMs to divulge vaccination status?; and 2) How do I reconcile the alarmingly low approximation of only approximately 44% in DSD being fully vaccinated with the information from the DSD U.S. Marshals office advising that the number is about 70%?

I would expect a bigger push from the USMS to encourage vaccination by DUSMs for their own wellbeing and the sake of their coworkers, as well as to help us as a nation get beyond this pandemic. Are there any efforts underway to increase the levels of vaccinations of DUSMs? Also do you foresee any forthcoming change in policy, given that the vaccinations continue to be shown in practical applications to be safe and effective?

Once again, thank you for your responsiveness, John.

From: Kilgallon, John (USMS) <John.Kilgallon@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Roberto Lange <Roberto_Lange@sdd.uscourts.gov>
Cc: Mosteller, Daniel (USMS) <Daniel.Mosteller@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Vaccination Expectations in District of South Dakota

CAUTION - EXTERNAL:

Dear Chief Judge Lange,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. As requested, attached is our response to the questions you posed in your letter last week regarding the vaccination status of our Deputy U.S. Marshals. While we do agree that the safest courtroom would be one where everyone was vaccinated, we are not mandating that our employees take the vaccine, nor are we requiring that they divulge their vaccination status. While I understand this isn't the response that you and your colleagues had hoped to hear, it is our agency's position nonetheless and while you may not agree with it, we do hope that you can find your way to understand and respect our position.

Please know that the United States Marshals Service remains steadfastly committed to our court security responsibilities and places the highest priority on maintaining the safety and security of those involved in the judicial process.